

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage phosphor reader, comprising:
a receiving station adapted to receive a cassette containing a removable storage phosphor;
a path along which the storage phosphor is transportable in a first and second direction when removed from and returned to the cassette, the receiving station being disposed at one end of the path; and
an access area disposed at the other end of the path wherein the access area can be exposed to ambient light as the storage phosphor is transported along the path.

2. (Currently Amended) A storage phosphor reader, comprising:
a receiving station adapted to receive a cassette containing a removable storage phosphor;
a path along which the storage phosphor is transportable in a first and second direction when removed from and returned to the cassette, the receiving station being disposed at one end of the path;
an access area disposed at the other end of the path wherein the access area can be exposed to light as the storage phosphor is transported along the path; and

~~The storage phosphor reader according to Claim 1, further comprising a cover disposed in the access area.~~

3. (New) A storage phosphor reader, comprising:
a receiving station adapted to receive a cassette containing a removable storage phosphor;

a path along which the storage phosphor is transportable in a first and second direction when removed from and returned to the cassette, the receiving station being disposed at one end of the path;

an access area disposed at the other end of the path wherein the access area can be exposed to ambient light as the storage phosphor is transported along the path; and

a cover disposed in the access area.